

Serial No. 09/596,244

PATENT
IBM Docket No. RAL919980012US1**Amendments to the Specification:**

Amend page 2, paragraph beginning at line 1 as follows:

A1 The invention contemplates a process for automatically generating a network subnet configuration by monitoring IP Address Resolution Protocol (ARP) frames on the network and building and maintaining a table including a list of learned subnets, the ports associated with each of the learned subnets and a mask associated with each learned subnet for identifying hosts belonging to the subnet. The process includes ~~the steps set forth below:~~

Amend page 4, paragraph beginning at line 14 as follows:

A2 The first three examples set forth below will follow the flow diagram illustrated in Fig 3 while the fourth will follow the flow diagram illustrated in Fig 4. In each example host A located on LAN 12 is the source address of an ARP frame received at port $[[PI]] P_1$ and host B located on LAN 14 is the destination address of the ARP frame transmitted by host A.

Amend page 6, paragraph beginning at line 13 as follows:

A3 In this example we will assume that the IP address of host A is 140.252.4.1 (140.252.0000.0100.0000.0001), that it belongs to learned subnet Va that is characterized by the address 140.252.4.0 and the mask 255.255.252.0 (1111.1111.1111.1111.1100.0000.0000). That the address of host B is 140.252.8.1 (140.252.0000.1000.0000.0001), that it belongs to learned subnet Vb that is characterized by the address 140.252.8.0 and the mask 255.255.248.0

Serial No. 09/596,244

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(1111.1111.1111.1111.1111.1000.0000.0000). Hosts A and B belong to different learned subnets (Va and Vb), however, since host A is sending an ARP frame to host B, it implies that ~~they~~ they are in the same subnet and that the learned subnets Va and Vb should be combined into a single learned subnet which accommodates both hosts and includes a forwarding domain which extends to all the different ports included in subnets Va and Vb as well as the port over which the ARP frame was received if that port was not previously included. In this example the ~~merged~~ merged subnet Vc is characterized by the address 140.252.0.0 and the mask 255.255.248.0 (1111.1111.1111.1111.1111.1000.0000.0000) which includes host A and host B.
